

A
MODEST ENQUIRY
INTO THE
CAUSES
OF THE
Present Disasters
IN
ENGLAND.

And who they are that brought the FRENCH
FLEET into the ENGLISH CHANNEL,
Described.

L O N D O N :

Printed for **Richard Baldwin** in the *Old-Baily*.
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Printed by J. JOHNSON, in the Strand.
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Modest Enquiry

INTO THE

Present MISCARRIAGES

In *ENGLAND*, &c.

TO see the *French Masters at Sea*,
 and the *English Glory* thus sunk
 in the eyes of all *Christendom*
 by a Complication of *Disasters*,
 cannot but raise the Curiosity of all true
 Lovers of their Countrey to enquire into
 the Source and Cause of so important E-
 vents. That we who have been able to
 make so great a Figure in the World, e-
 ven long before the Accession of the
 Crown of *Scotland* to *Ours*, and to turn the
 Scale of *Europe* to whatever Side we espou-
 sed; and who have so often dyed with our
 Enemies Blood, the Fields of *France*, and ac-
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quir'd so many Laurels in that Countrey, should at this very moment be oblig'd to turn our Backs to that very *Enemy* whom we have so often beaten, and upon that very *Element* which Nature and the Possession of some Ages had made properly *our own* ; Who could ever have dream'd ! Let us therefore enquire into the Causes of our present Misfortunes, and let us do it with that impartiality the Subject requires. It's but just the Authors and Abettors of *England's* Miseries, should be retriev'd from Oblivion, and their Infamy should be handed down to the unhappy Children, that shall have reason to curse their Fathers Villanies and Treasons.

England within these few years has been amused with *three* different *Plots*, and to be carried on by *three* different *Parties* ; but at the *bottom*, we have had but *one Plot*, and that carried on & manag'd but by *two Parties*, in constant *Friendship* with one another. We first of all saw a *Popish one* laid open and discover'd, with as *demonstrative clearness*, as such Hellish Works of Darkness could admit of. The King *seem'd*, and the Parliament and whole *Nation* did really *believe* the Reality of
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this Plot. But within a little time these two unhappy Parties, the *Papists*, and the High-flown *Passive-Obedience men*, (both equally the cause of all our Woes) joyn'd hand in hand to turn this Popish Plot into ridicule; and by a complication of *Subornations*, *Intrigues*, and *Perjuries*, they at last got it his'd out of doors.

Then it was the Pulpits began to ring with Outcries against those *true blew Protestants* (as they and their admired *Buffoon*, *L'Étrange*, call'd them in derision) who had the sauciness to endeavour the *Exclusion* of the then *Duke of York* from the *Crown*, as the only means to save *England* from a Ruin that threatned her. There was nothing at that time to be heard, in the most of our Churches, but the *Divine Right of Succession*; the *singular Loyalty of the Duke to his Brother*; and the *horridness of the Attempt to set so Pious so Generous, so well-natur'd a Prince beside the Throne*: Yea, it was become a kind of Treason to dare to say, *He was a Papist*.

It was not enough the *Papish Plot* should be his'd off the stage; our two loving Parties employed their utmost diligence to sham the world with a *Whig Plot* (for so they christned

it) as the only proper method to revenge themselves upon the wise and more moderate part of the Nation, that had been more forward than others in the Discovery of the *Papist* one. How this sham Protestant Plot was managed, and what Sacrifices were offered up to the Revenge of an *implacable Prince*, the barbarous Murther of the Earl of *Essex*, with the illegal Executions of the Lord *Russel*, *Algernon Sidney*, and many others, do speak out more than words can.

This *Whig Plot* was eccho'd in the *Pulpits* with all the villanous Names Hell could invent: And to be a *Whig*, was then a thousand times worse than to be a *Mahometan*. Every little Creature that had got into a Pulpit by the beneficence of a Patron, perhaps as silly as himself, though he could not sufficiently deserve his Ten or Twelve Pounds a year, unless he belch'd out once a Sunday, all the stench he possibly could, against the poor *Whigs*; and indeed the so doing was the properest way to come to Preferment. Now under the Name of *Whig*, they comprehended then, as well as now, not only the Dissenters, but all those of the Clergy or Laicks, that came not up to that mad height of *theirs*, in
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point of Ceremonies, *Passive-Obedience, Divine Right of Succession*, and the like.

King *Charles* being hurried off the Stage, God knows how; The *Duke of York* succeeds with the loud Acclamations of the two Parties I have named, and with the *submissive silence* of the rest of the Nation. Our High-flown Church-men strove, which of them understood the Art of Flattery best, in their Addresses to King *James*: And ev'ry *thirtieth of January* was solemniz'd with Peals of Ordinance from the Pulpits against the poor Whigs, for not only taking away the Life of the Father, but endeavouring to exclude the best, and the most pious Prince in the World, his Son from the Succession, by that *accurs'd Bill of Exclusion*. Indeed this *Anniversary-day*, had something in it like the *Bacchanalia* of *Rome*, wherein Slaves and Servants might safely insult and hector their Masters: And it often fell out, that a silly Fellow, who by Importunity, and perhaps worse means, had gotten into a Living, durst on this *general Madding-day*, reproach to his Face his Patron that gave him Bread, meerly because he was either a Whig, or at least would not bellow out Reproaches against that side, as loud as others.

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But alas ! poor King *James* soon lost the kindness of these his former *Votaries* : For he who had been told every day, *He might do what he pleas'd, and was accountable to none but God* ; thought He might safely venture to make tryal of the *Passive Obedience* of them that told him so. Here he was mightily mistaken, and hence he may date all his Misfortunes. The Devil might much more justly say of these *Passive Obedience Gentlemen*, in relation to King *James*, than of *Job* of old, in relation to God Almighty ; *Do they serve thee for nought ? Hast thou not made a hedge about them, and about their house, and about all that ever they have, on every side ? But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that they have, and they will curse thee to thy face* And as long as King *James* was carelling them, and giving them not only good Words, but good Deeds, especially a *belov'd power to trample on the Dissenters*, Then it was, *He was the best King in the World* : But whenever his Jesuited Counsellors hrd advis'd him to infringe in the least these mens Priviledges, Then their Complaints of King *James* were heard further off than *England*, and the very Nations abroad were deafen'd with the noise
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of their trifling Afflictions, and indeed more they were not, if compar'd with what other People met with from that Prince's *Ministers*.

Then was there nothing heard of among these Gentlemen, *but how far the King had broken his Oath to maintain the Church of England*, and how far he had invaded their *Liber-ties and Priviledges*, but especially in *allowing a Toleration to the Dissenters*. For a Toleration to Papists alone, they would easily have swallowed; but that the Dissenters (whom in their Pulpits they had a thousand times over call'd worse than the Papists) should be free from their Clutches, and should enjoy a perfect freedom from their Censures, was a thing intollerable to them. Their secret Murmurings broke out at length into open Complaints; And in fine, His present Majesty, the then *Prince of Orange*, could get no rest from their Importunities; But come over he must, and *settle things on a sure bottom*: And it was they who were most active in inviting him over to *England*.

The Prince from a Generous Principle of Zeal for the Protestant Religion, which was indeed by this time on the brink of Ruine, and which

which none had hastened more forward than our *high-flown Passive-obedience Men* ; He undertook an *Enterprise* of the great'st *Consequence* that this *Age* has seen, and ventur'd his *All*, to retrieve *three Nations* from a fate that impended over them. The best and soberest part of the *Nation* rose for *His Majesty* upon his landing ; and who prov'd more forward than *some* of our *Passive-obedience Men themselves* at that time ? Not only they declar'd for him, not only address'd they *K. James* for a Parliament in order to *Pinion Him*, which is all *one* on the matter as to *dethrone Him* ; but likewise upon that King's going away, they meet with the rest of the *Peers and Members of Parliament*, and joyntly invite the *Prince* to take upon him the *Government*, and to exercise a *Power* that wanted *nothing of a King*, but the *Name*.

One would have thought that *Party*, and the *Gentleman at Lambeth*, their *Head*, had been very cordial in bringing about this *Revolution*, since they went as far as any of their *Neighbours* at first in all the steps of it. But alas ! We were mistaken, these *worthy Gentlemen* had other aims than we knew of. They concurr'd in the inviting the *Prince of Orange* over to *England* ; in declaring for him after
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he came ; and in fine, in addressing him to take upon him the *Government* in so difficult Juncture. But this was all in order to make use of the P. of *Orange's Name, Power and Interest*, to bring about the Redress of *their trifling Grievances*. That *Prince* they were resolv'd to make but a *Tool* of for their little self-ends, whereof one was *the utter abasing of the poor Dissenters*, and laying them at their mercy. I confess I cannot but laugh at the insupportable *Folly* of these *unthinking Creatures*, that could imagine, the P. of *Orange*, who made so great a Figure in *Europe*, and whose presence was of so great necessity on the *Continent*, could be impos'd upon to come over to *England* in the heart of *Winter*, amidst a thousand *Dangers*, and at a vast *Charge*, and that meerly to fasten, forsooth, a tottering *Pillar or two in the Cathedral of Canterbury, or the Chappel of Lambeth*. That *Illustrious Prince* was born for greater *Glories* than these ; and those poor *Monkish Statesmen* are not able to fathom the *Genie of a Heroe*.

No reward but that of the *Crown* was sufficient for the mighty favour the *Prince* had done us, in delivering us from *Popery* and *Slavery* ; And there was indeed no other means left to assure us of safety, in so perplexing an Event, as

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that of K. *James's* going away, and the Consequences that did attend it. But to set the *Crown* upon the head of a *Prince*, who being brought up in Foreign Church, they suppos'd would prove no blind Bigot to Theirs, was a thing our *High Priest* and the rest of the *Gang* could not bear. A *Popish Prince*, so be it he would grant them a high hand over the *Protestant Dissenters*, they would rather trust on the Throne, that a *Protestant One*, who they knew would never consent to such Practices.

And here I would fain know of our *Lambeth Holy Club*, what mighty difference there is betwixt the Inviting a Foreign Prince to Invade by Arms the Right of their *Jure Divino King* (as they call King *James*) and thereafter Addressing that Prince to accept of a Power, which only belongs in their sense to Kings; and that of Swearing Obedience to that same Prince after he is actually Declared and Constituted King by the Nobility and Representatives of the People? How comes it that these Gentlemen were so free to do the first, and think it so unpardonable a sin to do the last? It's with conferring of Crowns, as with another Civil Contract, of which the Law says, *Multa impediunt Matrimonium contrahendum, quæ non destrunt contractum:*

tractum: Many things may hinder a Marriage from being at first entred into, which cannot dissolve it after it's consummated. So many things might have been said to hinder the Crown from being conferred upon his Majesty, which cannot have any place now, after he is by Act of Parliament settled in the Throne. And to any body, but these that are wilfully ignorant, the Inviting and Assisting his Majesty against the late King, before the Crown was conferr'd upon him, was a greater Invasion of their darling Principle of *Passive Obedience*, than the Swearing to him after he is declared and acknowledged King by the Parliament.

The King and Queen being thus settled on the Throne, we have immediately the effects of these mens inconstancy exprest in a *Third Plot*, whereof we are now principally to treat: Which has been managed principally by the disaffected Clergy and Laicks; for the Papists have really the least share in it. The first step the Clergy made, was the writing *against the taking the new Oaths to their Majesties, enjoyn'd them by Act of Parliament*; and the buzzing into the Ears of their poor ignorant Votaries, the *Unlawfulness of those Oaths, and the continuing Right of King James to the Crown.*

This piece of their Artillery, it was thought would have done some considerable Execution; But alas! a great many of the Gentlemen themselves who had been industrious to persuade others to refuse the Oaths, they could so little digest the loss of their *Living*s, as they chose rather to take these unlawful Oaths (as they call'd them) than to expose themselves to the least Suffering. And I remember a pretty story of a *Reverend Divine* in the *North* on this occasion: He had damn'd to Hell in his Sermons, all that rose for King *William*, before he was declar'd King; and ever after he was declar'd and Crown'd, to this very day, would never pray for him: He had in all Companies, but more especially among those of his own Character, exclaim'd against the taking the Oaths, and told them over and over again, that he had rather beg than take them: His Insinuations, and (as they expected) his Example, prevail'd with a great many of the poor *Parsons* and *Curates* of the Country, to let the time expire that was appointed for taking the Oaths. But the Gentleman himself, the very last night of the prefixed time, comes stealing in to the Magistrates of the Town where he lived, and takes them without any Scruple. But enough of this worthy Divine. There

There being very few of our disaffected Clergy that had the Courage to lay down their Places for the Oaths, the next step of the Plot was, to cheat the World and their own Consciences with a ridiculous and foolish distinction of taking the Oaths to a King *de facto*, but not *de jure*. The design of this Distinction was first to salve their own Consciences, and to vindicate themselves from the Reproaches of their Comerades, who had absolutely refused to take the Oaths. And 2^{ly}, To bear it in upon the minds of the people, That their Majesties were not Lawful and Rightful King and Queen of *England*, but *de facto* only, that is, in plain *English*, *Downright Usurpers*. This was so little adverted to, even by some of the honest Clergy, that in several of their Writings for *taking the Oaths*, they seemed to grant the distinction; which was indeed upon the matter, a granting the Question, tho these worthy Persons had no ill intentions in it. And indeed what could be more efficacious to alienate the hearts of the People from Their Majesties, than either to suppose them King and Queen *de facto* only, or to buzze into the Peoples ears, that in Swearing Allegiance to them, they thereby acknowledge no lawful Right to the Crown

Crown to be in their Persons. This distinction did not only give them scope to take the Oaths to their Majesties, but also to pray for them by Name in their Pulpits. But yet some of them, of more sincerity than the rest, would not pray for them by Name at all; and yet to prevent any trouble from the Law, they wisely pray'd in *general Terms for the King and Queen*. Here was a pretty way of playing fast and loose with God Almighty: He might take it in what sense he pleased; either for King *James* and Queen *Mary*, or King *William* and Queen *Mary*: And thus both God Almighty, and the Act of Parliament were satisfied. Others of a more nice stomach yet, would not pray for *the King and Queen*, but for *the King and the Royal Family*: A rare master-piece of wit! The word *King* takes in either King *William* or King *James*, and the *Royal Family* takes in all: And so be sure, the *Parson* must hit right one way or other.

The next step of the Plot was this; The Act of Parliament enjoining the Oaths to their Majesties, it seems, admits of some favourable Interpretation in Law, upon the part of those *that only Preach, but have no Cure of Souls*. Before they came to find out this noble Invention, the Plot was lame, because the Machines
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that moved it, were debarr'd from the Pulpits, where their Train would take best. The whispering in Corners was only small shot, but the Thunders from the Pulpit, would certainly do mighty Execution ; and no fitter place to erect a Battery, than upon a Velvet Cushion.

Some wise Lawyers having found out this happy Defect in the *Act* of Parliament, one of the greatest Champions was detach'd from the Body of the Army, to beat the Road, and try this new Experiment. And then D. S. with the loud Acclamations of the *Party*, mounts the Chair first ; and as an Introduction to his Sermons, gives his Auditory an account of the happy Discovery he had made, of so great a Blessing to Mankind ; *as his having Liberty to Preach to them, notwithstanding the Act of Parliament about taking the Oaths.*

This *Achilles* was followed by a great number of lesser *Mermidons* ; who partly by stealth, and partly by the Pious Zeal of some of their own sort of *Church-Wardens*, got up into some Pulpits in *London*, and a great many more in the Country ; where they were led about in Triumph. This was a down-right Invasion on the *Act of Parliament* ; for it was never the meaning of the *Lawgivers*, that only the Cure
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of Souls should fall under the compass of the Act, and that those who would not take the Oaths, might have leave to Preach, and thereby *Trumpet up the People to a Dissatisfaction with the Government.*

All these steps of the Plot, were to be back'd with another *Engine* of theirs ; and that was the publishing to the World, *The History of Passive Obedience.* In order to this *Master-piece* of Learning (for so must certainly a bare Collection of other Mens Writings be) a *Reverend Club* meets at L. where they muster up a great many Expressions of *English* Divines, both Ancient and Modern, to establish their Notion of *Passive-Obedience.* Although the most of the Citations of this Pamphlet, be far wide of the Question, and refer only to Obedience to Magistracy in general, and the unlawfulness of private Persons, their rising up against the Government upon every frivolous pretext : Yet this silly *Pamphlet* was handed about in Triumph among the *Party* ; and it was a Damnable Sin, for any of the *Gang* to want it off his Table ; yet many times the Bible that lay there before for fashion , was removed to give place to this new Guest.

But alas ! All that's past , was but small drops

drops before the Deluge of Rain that succeeded. The next Engine of the *Plot* is the happy Result of a kind of *Oeconomick Council* of the whole Party : The Liturgy of the Church of *England* must be laid aside, and a new one must be calculated for the Meridian of King *James's Tottering Fortune* : And the greatest wonder of all, is, That the *Council* who publish'd this new Liturgy, did not usher it in with, *It seems good to the Holy Ghost, and to us.*

In this New Liturgy they insinuate to the World, That in effect, all that are for Their Majesties Interest, were *without King, without Priest, and without God in the World.* A dreadful Doom, before a Terrible Tribunal ! None are indeed at this rate, within the compass of the Church, but this *Holy Jacobite Club*, and their followers. But let us hear the very Words of this part of the Liturgy ; *Restore us again* (say they) *the Publick Worship of thy Name, the Reverend Administrations of thy Sacraments ; raise up the former Government both in Church and State, that we may be no longer without King, without Priest, and without God in the World.*

But the loudest blast of their Trumpet, we meet with, when they come to Pray for the late King *James* : it's here the *Holy Club* has exhausted

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haunted all their Rhetorick and Zeal in the following Words. Send forth (say they) thy Light and thy Truth, and let them preserve us. Protect and defend thy Servant our Sovereign Lord the King. O prepare thy Loving Mercy and Faithfulness, that they may preserve him. Strengthen his hands, and the hands of all that are put in Authority under him, with Judgment and Justice, to cut off all such workers of Iniquity as turn Religion to Rebellion, and Faith into Faction (a pretty gingling of the Letters, mightily conducing to the Force of the Prayer), That they may never prevail against us, or triumph in the Ruin of thy Church among us. To this end defend the King, bind up his Soul in the bundle of Life, and let no Weapon form'd against him prosper. Be unto him a helmet of Salvation, and a strong Tower of Defence against the Face of his Enemies. Let his Reign be prosperous, and his Days many. Make him glad according to the Days wherein thou hast afflicted him, and for the Tears wherein thou hast made him suffer Adversity. Give him the Necks of his Enemies, and also every day more and more the Hearts of his Subjects. As for those that are implacable, cloath them with shame; but upon himself and his Posterity (that is, the Prince of Wales) let the Crown flourish. I have been at the pains to copy out
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thus much of the Prayer, that we may thereby see in what a *Praying frame* the Gentlemen were, when they compos'd it: And the truth is, I do not remember we ever saw them so transported with an *extatick fit* of Zeal, in all their Prayers for King James, when he was upon the Throne.

The *General Council* having thus compos'd this new Liturgy, there were above 10000 of them printed and disperfed up and down among the Party. And to this very day they use them in their *Cabals*, laying aside a great part, and sometimes all the old Liturgy: For alas! the old Liturgy comes not up to the heat and zeal of this new one; and how many old Women are become very devout upon it, that had almost been worn out of all love for the Old one, many years ago; especially if they have any little odd Money to spare to the poor distrest Clergy, that have left their places for pure Conscience sake.

Now at the very time the great Guns of these new Prayers are thus furiously playing, the *Club* are working a Mine under ground, to widen the Breach, in order to a *General Assault*. There are a great many of King James's Officers, and other well-wishers about Town,

that must be taken care of, until things be ready for a final Insurrection, wherein there will be use for them. To this effect, there are so many of the *Holy Club* detach'd up and down, to persuade monied People, who wish well to the Cause, to contribute for the subsistence of these cashier'd Gentlemen. There are no inconsiderable Sums of Money Levied and Paid out upon that account; among the Collectors of which, there must be one Fellow that eat King *William's* Bread. And certainly it were worth the while, to be present at one of the Meetings of the General *L. Club*, to hear what extraordinary fine Persons they extend their Care and Charity to, upon this account; and to learn the little Arts these great Statesmen put in practice, to persuade the silly old Women to tell down their Dust, for carrying on so pious a Work.

But now I come to the main Points of this noble Contrivance, and it may indeed be call'd *The Plot* by way of Eminence; all that went before, being but an Introduction to it. His Majesty, from a Noble and Boundless Courage, will needs venture his Person once more for the safety of these Kingdoms, and His Journey to *Ireland* is concluded upon: In order

der to this Expedition, the most and the better Disciplin'd part of the Army are to attend His Majesty ; And it will be impossible to leave any considerable Force behind him in his absence. Like as the Transportation of the Queen of *Spain* ; and the Convoy of the *Streights* Merchant-men, had carried a considerable part of our Fleet to the *Mediterranian* : And another part of it was to attend His Majesty and the Army to *Ireland* : So that our Fleet was not to be so considerable, as otherwise it would have been..

All these Circumstances raised the Courage of our *Plotters* ; and now was the only and fittest time to *give the blow* : In order to which, their mighty Patron the *French King* must be induc'd to act a considerable, and in effect, the most dangerous part. They knew, that his own Interest was linked intirely with that of King *James's* ; and that it concerned as much the *French King* in this Juncture, to support King *James*, and to maintain a War against King *William* in his own Kingdoms, as if the Kingdom of *France* it self were at the stake. The *French King*, from long custom, knew how to improve his Gold in *England* to advantage, and many a considerable return had he made:

made of that sort of trade. Our Plotters know best the *Genius* of the People, and where to bestow this Gold to the best advantage. They had been well acquainted with all the Villanies and Treacheries of the last two Reigns ; because some of them had a considerable share in them : And they wisely considered, that if they, by some *French* Gold, could gain Offices or Places, to those of their own Party, then they would be Masters of all the Secrets of the Nation : And it should be their own fault if they improved not the Intelligence they might have from them, to the forwarding King *James's* affairs.

It was not only Places and Offices, *wherein Intelligence is properly to be had*, but even those in the *Fleet* and elsewhere, our Plotters expected to have men of their own Stamp put in, with their Gold : And whether they fail'd in the last or not, I cannot tell ; sure if they did, it was not for want of Pains or Money, for they spar'd neither.

The King being gone ; *Admiral Killigrew* being in the Streights ; and Sir *Cloufely Shouet* in *St. George's Channel* ; And the *Holland Squadron* not yet joyn'd ours, nor *ours* fully met : Then was the time for our Plotters to put
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their long-thought on design in Execution. In order to which, at one of their *General Meetings* in *London*, where it was necessary some of the *Clergy* should be present to Bless so Pious a Work; it was concluded to give in a *Memorial* in Name of the *Loyal and Distress'd Subjects of England* (for so they nam'd themselves) to his Most Christian Majesty; Humbly Inviting him out of his extraordinary Goodness, and for the Affection he always bore to oppress Virtue, That he would assist them in restoring Their lawful King, His Ancient Ally and Confederate, to his Throne; and in breaking the Yoak of Usurpation, under which these Three Nations were at this time so heavily Groaning. But it will be absolutely fit here to insert the very Words of their Memorial it self, as it has been discover'd by a certain Person of late, and as it was express'd in the *French Tongue*, in which it was Originally written, and given in.

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The MEMORIAL is thus :

To the Most Serene and Most Invincible Prince, *Lewis* the Great, His Most Christian Majesty ; The Memorial of the Loyal and Distrest Noblemen, Clergy, Gentlemen, and others, of all Ranks, within the Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, at present under the Fetters of a Cruel Usurpation.

Great and Invincible Monarch,

THE Resplended Rays of Your Majesties Virtues, have render'd all the World your Adorers : And that Inherent Goodness of which Your Majesty stands so transcendently possesst, does render You the only Sanctuary of all the distrest. It's in the Confidence which this Your Unparallel'd Goodness gives us, That we in all humble Duty, presume to lay our Sighs at Your Majesties Feet : And that we Implore Your Royal Favour and Assistance, to rid us out of the great and insupportable Afflictions we lye under at present.

It's in your Royal Arms and Bounty we repose our Hope and Confidence ; and expect to see Our Lawful King, Your Ancient Friend and Ally, restor'd

stor'd to the rightful Throne of his Ancestors, out of which wicked men have thrust him. And because this is the most proper time for your Majesty to assist us with the assured expectation of success, we have presum'd to lay before you the present favourable Circumstances, that do concur to make your Majesties glorious Enterprize the more easie; which are principally these.

1. The Prince of Orange, the Usurper, is just now on his journey to Ireland; And being once arriv'd in that Kingdom, if a part of Your Majesties Fleet were able to block up St. George's Channel, the Usurper's Army would certainly be starv'd, being that all their Provisions come by Sea from Scotland and England; And that that part of the Countrey they are Masters of, is already barass'd and ruin'd by both Armies, both the last year and this.

2. The Usurper has partly sent before, and partly takes along with himself, the whole, almost, and the better Disciplin'd part of the Army: And leaves behind him but a very few of the English Regiments; who serve him more out of necessity and fear, than out of any Love to him, or to the Interest.

3. The Forces he leaves behind, are so very few, that they are scarce capable to keep Guards in the Tower, the Savoy, Somerset-House and at White-Hall all together: And the three Regiments,

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that are sent for out of Holland, will not be yet ready for some weeks to embark; neither is it thought they will stir a foot, because of want of Pay. Likeas both Officers and Soldiers are not entirely Devoted to the Usurpers Interest, the most of them being in the Service of our Lawful King, before he was necessitated to leave us.

4. Most of our Fleet are at so great distance one from another, that they cannot this year make any considerable body. There being the best and ablest Seamen and Ships with Killegrew in the Streights, and with Shouel in St. George's Channel, amounting together to more than Nineteen Ships of War.

5. There are likewise imploy'd for Convoys, and about the Western Coasts of Scotland, to the number of 5 or 6 Ships, all separately.

6. The Dutch Squadron is in no appearance to be here to join ours of a sudden; both because they are not yet in a readiness, and that the Admirals of Holland make scruple, and are highly discontented to serve under our English Admiral. Moreover, tho they were join'd us, they will but make up at the most twenty Sail of Ships; and them none of the best, considering their tallest and best mann'd Ships are out upon Convoys.

7. Our own Fleet is very ill mann'd, and the Soldiers and Seamen extremely discontented for want of their

their Pay; and several of the Officers were those that belonged to our King before he went away.

There are *Five* more *Articles* in this *Memorial*, that for certain Reasons I will not Copy out; only I'll tell the Reader, they are of a piece with the rest, and full as ill. Here are some truths, but a great many more lies; and such as none but People of their gang could be capable of. And if the Readers Curiosity tempt him to be very inquisitive how this *Memorial* came to light; let him wait but a little, and perhaps he will see both it, and the *Deliverers* and *Contrivers* of it, made publick enough.

It might be thought strange, that this *General Council* should venture their Credit, to invite the *French King* over to *England* upon no better or surer grounds; for by the by, the Design of the *Memorial*, was to bring them over, and there had been some two or three other *Memorials* before this, over and above a constant Correspondence betwixt the *French Minister Monsieur de Croisie*, and them. But the very truth is, The *Clergy*, who were the great *Contrivers* and *Managers* of this, and who by their Profession are for the most part extra-

ordinarily credulous of any thing they incline to, did really believe, that immediately upon the appearing of the *French Fleet*, and the burning of ours (which they thought as sure) there would certainly be a general *Insurrection* through a great many places of the Kingdom, in order to join them at their Landing, and to Declare for King *James*. They knew how busie they themselves had been to buzze into the ears of all People they had any Interest with; jealousies of the Government; and the reasonableness of calling back a Prince, that was by an unalterable *Divine Right*, their King. They knew how busie they had been in every corner, to whisper the great and heavy Taxes the Kingdom lay under in this Reign; and how greatly Trade was decay'd of late. When in the mean time these Wretches were Conscious to themselves, That we had given more to King *Charles* to throw away upon his Whores, than we had given to King *William* to reduce *Ireland* to the Crown of *England*. They likewise knew, that the Dissenters had been of late a little disoblig'd by the continuing the *Sacramental Test*, and by the *500 l. Bill*; and some other things, that seem'd very hard; considering their hearty affection to

King

King *William's* Interest. They knew that some of the most moderate part of the Church of *England*, called *Whigs*, had met with some mortifications of late, in the *Elections for Parliament*, but more especially in the change of the *Lieutenancy of London*. They were also pretty well acquainted with the temper of some men in Offices both in the *Lieutenancy* and *Militia*, who had gone a considerable length in the high-flown courses of the late Reign: And they were easily induc'd to think, that they who had gone the greatest length in betraying the Liberties of the City of *London*, and in packing up *Juries*, and the like, could never be cordial Friends to the present *Government*. All which things prevail'd with these new kind of *Statesmen*, to believe, that a general *Insurrection* in *England*, was one of the easiest things of a thousand; considering the Absence of the King, and some other things mentioned in the *Memorial*. But they counted without their host; and whether out of fear, or want of Power, none of the Male-contents of *England* durst stir a foot in the Cause they wish'd so well to.

The *French King* giving ear to the *Representations* and *Importunities* of these Gentlemen, put all his Wit on the rack to get money to equip
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the greatest Fleet that ever that Nation set to Sea ; and at a vast charge he brought the *Thou-
lon Squadron* round the whole Continent of *Spain*, and through the *Streights*, to join his *Brest Fleet*. He left not behind, one Seaman that could be found in *France*, and scarce one Ship more of any Force, in all his *Harbours*. Upon the notice given him by his Trusty *Pensioners* here, he directs this *French Armado* straight for the Isle of *Wight*, where our Fleet was to rendezvous ; and if it had but arrived there some few days before it came, we had not had Twenty Ships together at that place : Yet so near were we to ruin, that albeit our Fleet was become by that time pretty strong, and the most of the Ships arriv'd; yet if Heaven had not turned the Wind in a moment, they had every one of them, in all probability, been burn'd at Anchor. The *French Fleet* passing in sight of *Weymouth*, the Mayor of that place did very wisely dispatch two Expresses, one for the Queen, and another for my Lord *Torrington*, the Admiral : But the Wind blowing a fair fresh Gale , the *French Fleet* had certainly been amidst ours, before the *Weymouth Express* could possibly reach *Portsmouth*, if the Wind had continued but some hours longer.

longer. Our Fleet being in this imminent, and almost inevitable hazard, and the *French* being within a few Leagues of them, the Wind in an instant turn'd about, and put a stop to their design'd and easie Victory, by obliging them to lye by.

This happy Providence counter-acted all the Plots of our Enemies both at Home and Abroad; and we had time given us to prevent the Destruction that threatned us. And to compleat the Mercy, it fell out, that at that very precise time this hapned, there was a full Discovery made by some Persons here, who had been concerned in the Plot all along, of their whole Affairs and Transactions both with *France*, and at Home.

We read of one of the Nations of *Asia*, that when any signal Misfortune befalls their State, they immediately thereupon offer up to their angry Deities some of their Priests, as a Sacrifice to atone their Wrath; because, say they, *Those Priests ought to have taught us how to have pleased the Gods, so as not to provoke them to inflict such judgments upon us.* The truth is, it's a wonder the *English* Nation, upon the affront that has befallen them, in being forc'd to turn their backs to the *French* at Sea, have
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not in their fury *De-Witted* some of those men who have brought all this upon us, both by Inviting the *French*, and by the Intreagues they have manag'd at home: And I must tell them, that the Crimes of the Two unhappy Brothers in *Holland* (which gave rise to that word) were not fully so great, as those of some of them; and yet their Punishment has been one of the severest that any Criminals ever met with in this Age.

I am very inclinable to believe, that all the Officers and Seamen of the Fleet have been Proof against the Insinuations of our *Plotters*; and that they have not yielded to the Temptations of *French* Gold; tho at the same time, I do not doubt, they have been assaulted with both: And if so, the wonder is the greater, if it be true, that is talked so freely up and down, That a great many of the Officers have bought their Places with money. It's hard to believe that there are any such practices in *England*, as the buying and selling Places, especially those in the *Fleet*, upon which depend both the Safety and Glory of *England*: But if any such thing be, then the *Retreat* we have been forc'd to make, will certainly open the eyes of our Governours, to see the mighty and

and almost irrecoverable prejudices that attend such slavish methods of getting Commands; and will put them upon employing fit Persons, in *whose Fidelity and Valour we may safely trust*. Altho I be far from vindicating the late *Usurpation of Cromwell*, yet I cannot but admire the choice he made of brave and skilful Commanders in the *Fleet*; under the conduct of whom, *England* got so much Glory in the War against the *Dutch*: Over and above their Valour and Skill, Those Commanders both in their Practice and by their Orders, kept up the strictest Discipline among their Soldiers; and if there was any immoralities committed amongst them, it was by stealth, and not in face of the Sun. It's to be confess'd, it's very hard for some men to resist the Temptations of deprav'd Nature, and they are to be in some measure pitied, when they do it in a manner that expresses their shame of it. But when men commit the grossest immoralities in the open view of the world; it is in it self an outbraving of God Almighty, and a virtual denying of his Justice, or of his Power to exert it. And it's strange how any can dare to expect success from Heaven, when they are openly declaring War against it, by their

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avowed Impieties. And I am afraid, we wait for Success in vain, as long as in our Armies and Navies, among our Officers and Soldiers, there is not a Reformation, at least of open Immoralities.

But to return to the *French Expedition*: Our Murmurers and Plotters were strangely elevated with the expectation of its Success. In their fond imaginations King *James* was already at *White-Hall*; and some of them were publicly in Coffee-houses acting the part of a Herald, in Marshalling his Triumphant entry into *London*. Never was our new Liturgies, I spoke of, so threadbare as now, with being so often said over and over again in private meetings of the Party: And the ordinary subject of their discourse was, the *Greatness and Magnanimity of the French King*, the *number and force of his Fleet*, the *weakness of ours*; and sometimes a defect of *His Majesties forces in Ireland*, to keep them in heart. Their Impudence was arriv'd at that height, that in open Exchange, one of the long Robe was pleased to say with relation to the *Hollanders* loss in the late Engagement at Sea, That they were well paid off for the Present they had sent us some twenty months ago.

But that none of that Party may want the
due

due Praise their Writings deserve, I'll give the Reader a *Dedication* made by one of them (and him of the long Robe too) to the French King not many Months since, when the Plot was just upon the wheel, and which for the Nobleness of the stile I must commend, tho the matter of it be downright Blasphemy.

Immortalitati & Eternitati, Nominis & Numinis Lodovici Magni, Galliarum Imperatoris, Clementis, Victoris, Felicis, semper Augusti, ob Egregiam Pietatem & Regiam munificentiam, erga Afflictos Principes Britannicos, nomine Britanniarum Insularum, hosce Versiculos Anglice conscriptos, humillime consecrat. In English thus; To the Immortality and Eternity of the Name and Divinity of Lewis the Great Emperor of France, Victorious, Happy, Merciful, Alwise, August; in acknowledgment of his Royal goodness and bounty towards the afflicted Princes of Brittain, These Verses Written in English, are in name of the Brittish Isles most humbly Consecrated by, &c. Thus we see how far an English Jacobite can outvy a French Poet himself, in the art of Blasphemous Flattery.

But how soon are all these kind of Peoples hopes laid in the dust, upon the arrival of the news of His Majestys Glorious Victories in Ireland; and how far has it counterpois'd the

joy they had some days ago for the Action between the two Fleets? A little time will shew, that notwithstanding of all they have done to Ruin him, no body will be more forward than they to fawn upon his Majesties good Fortune, whenever once they are quite out of hopes of King *James's* retrieving his. But sure the Government will be Wiser, than ever to dart any of its warm beams upon such kind of Creatures, any farther than to let them live the Scorn of all Honest men, and the Hatred of every one that loves their Countrey and their Religion.

Thus have I given some of the Reasons of the late Disasters (if I may call them so) which we have met with, within these few days in *England*, tho they are more than made up by our wonderful Success in *Ireland*; yet I must call it a Disaster, to be obliged to retire without obtaining a full Victory over the *French*, and to see the *Dutch Squadron* receive so great a Damage, without being able to come up to their Assistance. And the consideration of this, has forc'd from me some Expressions against the Authors and Abettors of these Misfortunes, that perhaps I would otherwise have spared: And I attest God to

witness

witness, that nothing but Love to my Country and Religion, to Their Majesties Persons and Government, has extorted them from me.

When I have spoken so much against the Practices of our discontented Clergy; both Reason, and my own Inclination, do oblige me to admire and praise the wise and pious Conduct of that part of the Clergy who have been true to their Country, and to their Religion, and have not (as some others of their Character) resisted the Mercies of God, that has been wonderfully manifested in delivering us from Popery and Slavery; but who by their Precepts and Example, have excited their People to receive these Mercies with all the just return of thanks. God forbid, that I should be so unhappy, as to be mistaken in any of the Reflections I have been obliged to make of the Carriage of some of that Order; or, that I should be thought to derogate in the least from the singular Learning, Piety, and Zeal, that shine visibly among the Divines of the Church of *England*, by any thing I have said against those, who are indeed a reproach to that Church. I must confess, there is one thing that has mightily provoked me against these Male-contents, and that is, their veno-

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mous and ill-natur'd Reflections, both in their
 Discourses and Libels, against some of the first
 Luminaries of the Church, whose Books they
 are not worthy to bear; and that meerly upon
 the account of their Affection to the present
 Government. And altho these Reverend and
 Excellent Persons, are pleased by a Miracle
 of good Nature, to suffer their Follies and Im-
 pertinencies. I know no reason why others,
 that have not the Honour to be of that Sacred
 Order, should spare them.

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